

Policy Influence

Policy Influence

- Direct – change in policy regimes
- Indirect
 - New research feeds into a policy dialogue
 - Issues and policy are reframed
 - Policy ideas are tested with new instruments
 - Existing data or policy is managed or evaluated differently
 - Research capacity is enhanced

Policy Influence

- The Tracks along which Ideas Travel
- The challenge may be:
 - To repair and expand an existing track
 - To widen existing tracks to make room for new ideas
 - To create a fast track if the system is crowded
 - To build entirely new tracks

Policy Influence

- When is Policy Most Easily Influenced by Research?
- 1. The “open” Policy Window
 - Policy Commitment
 - When Policy Makers are considering several options within a broad policy framework
 - When Policy Makers are dissatisfied with existing policy

- When is Policy Most Easily Influenced by Research?
- 2. The “partly-Open” Policy Window
 - A “noisy” environment
 - Constrained resources and capacity
 - Other priorities

Policy Influence

- When is Policy Most Easily Influenced by Research?
- 3. The “Closed” Policy Window:
 - Government is hostile

Policy Influence

- Implications for IRDC
- What Projects Get Funded
 - A varied portfolio
 - Expectations of IDRC and research teams aligned
 - The Portfolio:
 - Open or opening policy windows
 - Partly open policy windows
 - Closed policy windows

Policy Influence

- How Should Policy Influencing Research Projects be Funded?
 - Map policy networks at the outset
 - Design influence strategies at the outset
 - Explicit commitment of resources, if needed, to develop policy influencing capacity
 - Where needed, explicit commitment of resources to policy influencing activities
 - Explicit strategies of evaluation for policy influencing outcomes

Policy Influence

- Sober Last Words
 - Policy windows do not open often and tend not to stay open long.
 - Capacity to use research within government often as important as capacity to do research
 - Policy influencing is a risky activity. Risk analysis and protection strategies are important.
 - Media are important policy influencers.